

THE STATE OF ARIZONA
INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

Online via Webex

December 3, 2021

11:59 a.m.

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1 VIRTUAL TOWN HALL, BEFORE THE INDEPENDENT
2 REDISTRICTING COMMISSION, convened at 11:59 a.m. on
3 December 3, 2021, online via Webex.

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6 COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

7 Ms. Erika Neuberg, Chairperson
8 Mr. Derrick Watchman, Vice Chairman
9 Ms. Shereen Lerner, Commissioner
10 Mr. David Mehl, Commissioner

11 STAFF PRESENT:

12 Ms. Lori Van Haren

13 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS:

14 Patty Villeneuve
15 Cate Barker
16 Steve Hetsler
17 Rennae Ward
18 Jane Rhodes
19 Rivko Knox
20 Elysa Daniels
21 Annarose Lilly
22 Melissa Forbes
23 Andrea Genette
24 Gina McCracken
25 Valeria Urquiza
Rhoda Gambler
Kellen Wilson
Lawrence Warren
Stephanie Holbrook
Chad Moreland
Dustin Rector
Steven Steele
Scott Sawottke
Suzanne Mead
James Miller
John Boyer

1 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS:

2 Richard Young
3 Ryan Williams
4 Gary Spears
5 Jeff Montgomery
6 Sandy Bahr
7 Mary-Jeanne Fincher
8 Nelson Morgan
9 Desiree Perez
10 Paul Brierley
11 Antonio Silva
12 Roy Morales
13 Doris Hinton
14 Judith Simons
15 Donna Kruck
16 Priscilla Mckerracher
17 Brandy Reese
18 Sarah Fanning
19 Alex Forbes
20 Marisela Mares
21 Alison Porter
22 Elizabeth Bernstein
23 Eric Morgan
24 Michael Martinez
25 Salil Deshpande
Mary Guadio

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2
3 THE INTERPRETER: Hi. My name is Brenda
4 Lopez. I'm a Spanish interpreter. I will be
5 available. Please let me know if you need an
6 interpreter. Lori will be sending the phone number
7 that you can dial into, and I will be available on the
8 number.

9 (Speaking in foreign language.)

10 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you, Brenda.

11 And good afternoon, everyone. I will send it
12 over to the chair of the meeting, Commissioner Lerner.

13 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Thank you all for being
14 here at our last virtual meeting for the Independent
15 Redistricting Commission, last public hearing.

16 I now call to order the Virtual Town Hall
17 Metro Phoenix Public Hearing, and just as a reminder we
18 do have one more in-person meeting tomorrow in
19 Tucson -- I'll remind you again at the end of the
20 meeting -- Tucson and Maryvale.

21 Staff is now going to describe the format of
22 the meeting, and I want to also let you know that there
23 is a transcriptionist who will be recording every word.
24 Please speak slowly and clearly so we have a clear
25 record of your input.

1 And at this point we will introduce ourselves.
2 I am Shereen Lerner, one of the Commissioners of the
3 Independent Redistricting Commission. I am in Maricopa
4 County.

5 I'll pass it on to my fellow Commissioner.

6 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Good afternoon. I'm
7 Derrick Watchman, Vice Chairman of the Commission, and
8 I represent Apache County.

9 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Hello. I'm David Mehle.
10 I'm a Commissioner from Pima County. I live in Tucson.

11 COMMISSIONER LERNER: And I think that's it
12 for now. Is that correct, Lori?

13 MS. VAN HAREN: I believe the Chairwoman is
14 trying to log in right now, if we could just take a
15 minute and allow her to get onto the Webex.

16 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Absolutely.

17 MS. VAN HAREN: I can go ahead and read the
18 rules of the meeting while she's trying to log in and
19 explain the format of the meeting.

20 We have two hours and 60 speakers. When your
21 name is called you will be sent a request to unmute
22 yourself. Three speakers will be unmuted at a time.
23 Please do not begin until your name is actually called
24 by name. In the chat box we have listed all of the
25 speakers. If the speaker is not logged in under the

1 name he or she is registered, we will not be able to
2 unmute you. We will be calling the speakers in order,
3 skipping anyone who is not logged in or who does not
4 reply to the request to unmute. We will try to return
5 to anyone we missed.

6 In compliance with Arizona's open meeting
7 laws, speakers should confine their statements to the
8 issue on the posted agenda which is before the
9 Commission. Speakers are also requested to limit their
10 comments to approximately two minutes. The two minutes
11 will be strictly enforced for all speakers.

12 Additionally, speakers are required to follow
13 proper decorum. Speakers must use appropriate
14 language. Foul and/or abusive language will not be
15 tolerated. Any speaker failing to follow proper
16 decorum or any other guidelines may be asked to leave.
17 Any breach of the peace or disruption of public hearing
18 may be cause of report to law enforcement.

19 If someone has already expressed the same
20 sentiments you wish to express, you may say so, and
21 your comments will be recorded.

22 Opposing viewpoints may be expressed by the
23 citizens present. As a courtesy, citizens are reminded
24 to address their comments to the Chair and the
25 Commission and not to the audience present. Please

1 show respect for all speakers and avoid personal
2 comments. Remember, the Commission must hear all sides
3 of an issue to make an informed decision.

4 We will begin public comment as soon as we
5 can, just make sure that the Chairwoman can log in, if
6 we can take just a few minute recess.

7 COMMISSIONER LERNER: If we could post the
8 speakers that you mentioned that might be helpful for
9 folks.

10 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. We will -- we will post
11 that list as soon as we get the Chairwoman in.

12 Okay. I believe that Erika -- the Chairwoman
13 has joined. Is that correct?

14 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Yes. I am on the line.
15 I apologize. For whatever reason my Webex is not
16 working at home.

17 MS. VAN HAREN: We've had some technical
18 issues with it this morning, Chairwoman, so I
19 apologize, too.

20 So we will go ahead and get started with our
21 first speaker, who is Patty I believe Villavenu.

22 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Could we have the
23 Chairwoman just introduce herself?

24 MS. VAN HAREN: I apologize.

25 COMMISSIONER LERNER: She didn't have a chance

1 to do that. The rest of us have.

2 Chairwoman.

3 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Okay. Hello, everyone.
4 I'm Chairwoman Erika Neuberg. I am the registered
5 Independent, and I live in Chandler. And, again, my
6 apologies for being tardy and only being on the phone,
7 but I look forward to everybody's feedback.

8 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Now we can move forward
9 with -- Lori will call out the names. Thank you.

10 MS. VAN HAREN: The first speaker will be
11 Patty Villeneuve.

12 Patty, can you hear us?

13 MS. VILLENUEVE: Yes, I can.

14 MS. VAN HAREN: Please proceed.

15 MS. VILLENUEVE: Thank you for having me speak
16 today. I know, Shereen, you were able to give us a
17 brief overview with the East Valley Chamber of Commerce
18 Alliance a few weeks back, so I appreciate that.

19 And I just wanted to just remind folks that
20 when they're -- with the maps and redistricting and
21 whatnot just to be mindful of the fact that with the
22 new maps that have been created for District 6,
23 Congressman -- Congress -- Congressional District 6,
24 it's such a wide area now and to be aware of economics,
25 socioeconomic differences between folks. The

1 priorities and things that are important to people are
2 extremely different. You know, in the past it's been
3 similar, like-minded communities, you know, Fountain
4 Hills, Carefree, Cave Creek, you know, North
5 Scottsdale, that kind of thing. So just, again, to be
6 mindful of that, the differences of the needs of the
7 folks that are going to be represented in these
8 districts as they're remapped.

9 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

10 Our next speaker is Cate Barker.

11 Cate, can you hear us?

12 MS. BARKER: I sure can. Can you hear me?

13 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Thank you. Please
14 proceed.

15 MS. BARKER: Good morning. So redistricting,
16 as far as I understand it, is to create equitable
17 voting districts. As a resident of Ahwatukee I believe
18 Map LD 0061 does this by creating East Valley districts
19 with roughly equal populations, by keeping the Latino
20 communities of interest together in LDs 9 and 13, by
21 drawing LD districts in relatively rectangular shapes,
22 and including districts dedicated to all of Mesa and
23 all of Gilbert. Map LD 0061 also splits Chandler,
24 Gilbert, Tempe, and Scottsdale into only two districts,
25 minimizing the splits there, and it splits Mesa into

1 only three districts.

2 In addition, it creates two more competitive
3 districts by moving the Sun Lakes community from LD 13
4 into LD 12.

5 Thank you so much for your work on this
6 important project.

7 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

8 Our next speaker is Steve Hetsler.

9 Steve, can you hear us?

10 MR. HETSLER: Yes. Can you hear me?

11 MS. VAN HAREN: Please proceed.

12 MR. HETSLER: Okay. Hi. I'm Steve Hetsler
13 from Gold Canyon. I will focus on the need to not let
14 competitiveness override the five Constitutional
15 requirements. You know what the Constitution says, and
16 you'll either heed it or disregard, regardless of the
17 political pressures.

18 You know you shouldn't be splitting districts
19 and school districts in half or tying urban communities
20 into far-flung rural maps, the situation none of the
21 Commissioners are putting themselves into. I pick my
22 battles, and I'm glad to see that Apache Junction is
23 united in Congressional District 5. A five-mile shift
24 east to include 10,000 residents of Gold Canyon would
25 extend their proper community of interest. If changes

1 to CD 5 were made the adjustment could at least offset
2 the damage from the legislative redistricting. I'm not
3 looking for a perfect escape from the LD 7 mess, but
4 realize that compromise must begin from a reasonable
5 starting point, which this map isn't.

6 I supported the five plus eastern plan because
7 it was mutually beneficial with respect to both the
8 size of the urban and rural divide. I know there is a
9 lot of concerns in Gilbert and other East Valley cities
10 that demand corrections. In that process I could hope
11 that those situations could find room to include Apache
12 Junction and Gold Canyon into the metro area they are
13 part of.

14 This Commission was formed to solve a
15 perceived problem and increase trust in government.
16 Show that the process works by respecting compactness,
17 integrity -- contiguity, and communities of interest
18 that was entrusted to you as in the -- as spelled out
19 in the language of the Prop 106 that the voters trusted
20 you with. Thank you.

21 MS. VAN HAREN: The next speaker is Rennae
22 Ward.

23 Rennae, can you hear us?

24 MS. WARD: Yes, I can.

25 MS. VAN HAREN: Please proceed.

1 MS. WARD: Okay. Good morning. Thank you to
2 the Commissioners for your time and allowing me the
3 opportunity to speak. My name is Rennae Ward, and I
4 live in the area of Vistancia in northern Peoria. This
5 is one of the fastest-growing areas of Arizona.
6 Thousands of homes have been built in Vistancia in the
7 five years I've lived here. It is proposed to move us
8 into LD 28. The City of Peoria's website indicates
9 there are plans in the works to build an additional
10 10,000 homes in and around Vistancia master planned
11 community. There is construction well under way at the
12 intersection of I-17 and Loop 303 for a semiconductor
13 plant which will employ two to three thousand people.
14 This will bring additional jobs in the way of
15 commercial activities to support the project.

16 I want to address our inclusion in Legislative
17 District 28. Most of that district is very rural and
18 includes the town of Wickenburg. Vistancia and the
19 surrounding area is far from rural. We are a suburb of
20 Phoenix, just like the rest of Peoria and Glendale. We
21 have little in common with the people in these rural
22 areas. We are not farmers or ranchers, nor do we have
23 stores that cater to farmers and ranchers. We are
24 suburbanites. We shop locally in our area. Our
25 children attend local schools, and we work in and

1 around Vistancia. Most of us do not socialize with the
2 rural area population. We should not be separated from
3 the rest of Peoria in our city government and
4 resources. We should be included with other suburban
5 areas. We will not receive the kind of attention --

6 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

7 Our next speaker is Rivko Knox.

8 Rivko, can you hear us?

9 It looks like he had an issue. We'll come
10 back to him.

11 The next speaker is Jane Rhodes.

12 Jane, can you hear us?

13 MS. RHODES: Yes, I can. Can you hear me?

14 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

15 MS. RHODES: My name is Jane Rhodes. My
16 husband and I have lived in Cave Creek for the past
17 17 years, and I have to say that we are stunned with
18 the results of your work on both the micro and macro
19 scale.

20 First the micro. You separated the Cave Creek
21 area from Yavapai County, which is great, but then you
22 put us in a new LD 3, which is actually far worse. In
23 fact, I see this new district as a failure on four of
24 your six criteria.

25 Number 1, it pretty much ruins our community

1 of interest, which identifies with the greater Phoenix
2 metropolitan area and not in any way with the rugged
3 wilderness to our east that's the new LD 3.

4 Number 2, it's compact and contiguous only if
5 you know nothing about the area this covers.

6 Number 3, it presents huge geographical
7 barriers between us and the rest of this LD, including
8 significant mountain ranges and virtually no roads,
9 literally, between us and anywhere else in this
10 district.

11 And Number 4, LD 3, the new LD 3 is totally
12 uncompetitive. I mean, there is a 20 percent spread
13 between the number of Republican and Democratic voters,
14 which leads me to my macro concern.

15 You have made 24 of the 30 districts safe,
16 meaning more competitive, yet your mission says that
17 one person, one vote district dictates that districts
18 are roughly equal in population, but really one person,
19 one vote dictates more than that. It means making as
20 many districts as possible competitive, the opposite of
21 creating a collection of safe districts. The practical
22 effect of your current approach is to take away from
23 every single minority voter the right to a meaningful
24 vote. It makes a mockery of one person, one vote, and
25 the net result is an outright bias in favor of one

1 party.

2 In closing, I have two asks. Number one,
3 please --

4 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

5 Our next speaker is Rivko Knox.

6 Rivko, can you hear us?

7 MS. KNOX: Yes. And can you hear me?

8 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Thank you.

9 MS. KNOX: My name is Rivko.

10 THE ASL INTERPRETER: This is Tiffany, the
11 sign language interpreter. I've been sending messages
12 for my team to be promoted to be able to start
13 interpreting, but no one is responding to us for about
14 20 minutes. Thank you.

15 MS. KNOX: Thank you.

16 My name is -- my name is Rivko Knox. I've
17 been a registered voter in Phoenix since 1966 when I
18 moved here. I've lived and voted in six different
19 districts during that time, all while living in the
20 same house near I-17 and Thunderbird. Because I've
21 seen so many changes in the area in and around where I
22 live, I've come to realize that my community of
23 interest lies with those who share my values and views
24 of the role of the public sector versus a local
25 shopping center, school, industry or even city

1 boundary, all of which have changed several times since
2 I moved in. My values require a public sector that
3 ensures a well-funded public school system, meets the
4 needs of all students, protects the environment in
5 which we all live with clean and air water, protects
6 our natural resources, Native lands and heritage areas,
7 provides health care to all, including mental health,
8 and protects the most vulnerable.

9 The best way to create maps that will allow
10 the voice of my community to be heard is to comply with
11 the language and the act that created the IRC to create
12 fair and competitive maps that also protect the rights
13 of minority communities. Although I'm a very active
14 member of my political party, I am not asking the IRC
15 to create more districts that advantage my party. It
16 is also one reason why I'm quite opposed to the draft
17 map adopted by the IRC, especially regarding the lines
18 drawn of the southern part of the state that appear to
19 reflect comments, opinions relating to the supposed
20 political views of people in different areas who
21 deserve to elect someone who shares their views. To me
22 this violates the spirit of the letter of the IRC
23 mandate.

24 Why the focus on competitive maps? Because
25 history backed by research shows that such increased

1 voter turnout among people of all ages, races, ethnic
2 groups, and all parties and among Independents. And I
3 believe the bedrock of our democracy is the right of
4 each citizen to vote and a process that empowers them
5 to do so. Also, competitive districts attract
6 candidates who are committed to serving all those in
7 their district.

8 MS. VAN HAREN: The next speaker is Elysa
9 Daniels.

10 Elysa, can you hear us?

11 MS. DANIELS: Yes. Can you hear me?

12 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

13 MS. DANIELS: My name is Elysa Daniels. I've
14 lived and voted in Carefree for 35 years.

15 My comments are on the Legislative Draft Map
16 Number 10, specifically the LD Number 3 that you've
17 created. It does not fulfill compactness,
18 competitiveness, our communities of interest. I
19 appreciate that you've taken us out of Yavapai County,
20 but now you've put us into an area that is not anything
21 like us. The part of -- the east part of that map
22 doesn't have anything to do with -- they're very rural.
23 We're very suburban. The problem has a remedy. My
24 community of interest runs south towards Phoenix, not
25 west of I-17 or east of the McDowell Mountains. We

1 propose extending the two sides of the current LD 1
2 Maricopa south towards Phoenix along the Tatum/Cave
3 Creek corridor. This creates an LD that fulfills the
4 three Cs, compactness, community of interest, and
5 competitiveness, and is geography. It also improves
6 the vote spread from the current imbalance of
7 20 percent down to a 4.7 percent.

8 The political extremism we all witness is
9 exacerbated by unbalanced districts that allow
10 politicians to cater to only one side of the political
11 spectrum. Balanced districts favor moderate candidates
12 who must compete for voters from both parties. We want
13 politicians that can focus on critical issues. I would
14 like to see the IRC aid in lowering the highly partisan
15 temperature and improve the political discourse in this
16 state by creating more politically balanced districts.
17 This can be your legacy.

18 Thank you for listening.

19 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

20 The next speaker is Annarose Lilly.

21 Annarose, can you hear us?

22 MS. LILLY: I can hear you. Can you hear me?

23 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

24 MS. LILLY: I'm Annarose Lilly, a resident of
25 Maricopa County for ten years, currently in Sun City.

1 Although officially retired, I'm a licensed Arizona
2 realtor and hold a project management professional
3 certification.

4 First, let me say at the legislative district
5 level combining the Sun Cities into LD 29 is a step in
6 the right direction. Thank you. The problem for my
7 community, which is an urban senior population, lies
8 more at the congressional district level. CD 9 as it
9 is drawn is neither compact, nor does it honor highly
10 disparate communities of interest. It appears that
11 CD 9's shortcomings start with the lines drawn for
12 CD 2. The CD 9 map bypasses Yavapai County, most
13 notably the population of Prescott, to create an urban
14 population up to 500 miles away.

15 In its current configuration 75 percent of CD
16 9's population reside in urban Maricopa County, my
17 community, which shares none of the policy, lifestyle,
18 or cultural priorities of those living in rural Mohave
19 County. Is it really necessary to comingle a clearly
20 urban community with a rural population? Wouldn't
21 Prescott be a far more compatible population for CD 9
22 than that of urban Sun City and Maricopa County?
23 Certainly the IRC can modify CD 9 for greater
24 compactness, and most importantly, to combine more
25 relatable communities of interest. And for my

1 community, that portion of Maricopa County that
2 contributes 75 percent to the proposed CD 9, isn't it
3 possible in a county of 4.5 million people to situate
4 us in a district with more like-minded communities?

5 Thank you for this opportunity. It's my
6 sincere hope that the revised maps will address the
7 issues of compactness for CD 9 and a reasonable
8 alignment of communities of interest. This is
9 imperative for maps that will affect us for the next
10 ten years.

11 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

12 Our next speaker is Melissa Forbes.

13 Melissa, can you hear us? Yes. Please
14 proceed.

15 MS. FORBES: Thank you.

16 Hello, and thank you so much for allowing me
17 to speak today. My name is Melissa. I've lived in
18 Arizona for five years. I'm a small business owner and
19 an active member of my Central Phoenix community. I'm
20 also a long-time volunteer and mentor to a group home
21 of teens near downtown Phoenix.

22 In my five years here I've seen firsthand the
23 power of competitive districts. Whenever I submit
24 comments to my reps on issues of importance to me and
25 my neighbors, I receive fast and clear responses,

1 sometimes even phone calls. My community is changing,
2 and I want to make sure that this community, everyone
3 who lives in it, especially those with histories of
4 underrepresentation like many of the girls that I
5 mentor, have an equal chance to select the
6 representative that reflects their needs.

7 So my comments are on a more macro level. I'm
8 asking that, you know, because competition is so
9 critical to a functional democracy that we look at our
10 maps as currently drawn and ensure that they are drawn
11 in a competitive way that ensures that all
12 representatives are working hard to have a moderate,
13 less extreme view and really represent everybody within
14 their communities. I urge you to redraw the maps with
15 balance and competition in mind.

16 Thank you for your hard work and your time on
17 this important effort.

18 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

19 The next speaker is Andrea Genette.

20 Andrea, can you hear us?

21 MS. GENETTE: Yes. Can you hear me?

22 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

23 MS. GENETTE: Good afternoon, Chairwoman and
24 members of the Independent Redistricting Commission.
25 My name is Andrea Genette. My spouse and I built our

1 home in Carefree and have lived here for 25 years.

2 Thank you for listening to citizens as we participate
3 in the process toward fulfilling the goal of Prop 106,
4 creating fair and balanced districts to make Arizona a
5 more truly representative republic.

6 I am speaking to Map 10.0 and what is proposed
7 for my state district, LD 3. It does not meet the
8 important criteria of geographic barriers, communities
9 of interest, nor competitiveness. I'm glad we've been
10 disincluded with Yavapai County, but the draft to draw
11 us into a district with another equally distant, rural,
12 and non-COI area makes the same mistake in a different
13 direction. My community of interest for 25 years has
14 been to the south of Carefree and Cave Creek along the
15 Cave Creek and Tatum corridors. We are a suburb of
16 Phoenix. It is where we shop and take care of our
17 health, live our lives, have common interests and civic
18 issues, not in rural areas to the east.

19 Along with this redrawn comes a 20.42
20 competitive advantage to one party over another, almost
21 triple the top end of 7 percent set by the Commission
22 for new districts. The 7 percent was set for a good
23 reason. Competitiveness keeps a representative
24 republic thriving. It keeps those elected responsive
25 to the constituencies they represent. I have lately

1 watched a narrow, narrow majority in the state Senate
2 and House run roughshod over by one or two state
3 minority these past several years. This mode of
4 operating does not represent the population of Arizona
5 in 2021, which is much more evenly split.

6 The Independent Redistricting Commission has a
7 rare and crucial opportunity to positively impact the
8 fairness of representation and the tenor of politics in
9 this state. I urge you to consider this possibility
10 and responsibility in your work, and particularly in
11 LD 3. Thank you.

12 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

13 Our next speaker is Gina McCracken.

14 Gina, can you hear us?

15 MS. MCCRACKEN: Can you hear me?

16 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

17 MS. MCCRACKEN: Okay. My name is Gina
18 McCracken, and I live with my husband. I'm near 60th
19 Street north of Thomas in Scottsdale. And we, my
20 husband and I, strongly desire to be in a congressional
21 district where our neighborhood in Scottsdale will not
22 be added into the Central Phoenix community. Thank
23 you.

24 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

25 The next speaker is Valeria Urquiza.

1 Valeria, are you here?

2 MS. URQUIZA: Yes. Hello? Can you hear me?

3 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

4 MS. URQUIZA: Hi. My name is Valeria Urquiza.
5 I was born and raised here in Phoenix, Arizona. Rising
6 house costs forced my family and many others to move
7 from the central city where I grew up to the Maryvale
8 area, and so housing costs continue to rise, while the
9 Latino community and others continue to experience a
10 lack of resources and unrest in our communities. The
11 Latino population in Maricopa County has grown
12 significantly since the last redistricting and
13 continues to do so -- sorry. And continues to do so.
14 A growing community should have the opportunity to
15 flourish and representatives in office that understand
16 our issues. I am asking the IRC to create five
17 majority Latino districts in Maricopa County so that my
18 community can be properly represented.

19 Thank you for your time.

20 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

21 Our next speaker is Rhoda Gambler.

22 Rhoda, can you hear us?

23 MS. GAMBLER: Yes, I can. Thank you.

24 Good afternoon. My name is Rhoda, and I live
25 in the San Tan Valley. I wanted to speak in favor of

1 the maps LD 0061. In general, I do --

2 MS. VAN HAREN: Uh-oh, Rhoda. We lost your
3 sound. Rhoda, can you hear us? Oh, there. You're
4 back. Start over. Okay. I paused for time. You're
5 good.

6 MS. GAMBLER: Okay. Thank you.

7 I live in the San Tan Valley, and I wanted to
8 speak in favor of the LD 0061. I feel like it does a
9 great job of keeping communities together. Living in
10 the San Tan I don't feel we have as much in common with
11 Apache Junction as in the proposed maps, but I do agree
12 how LD 0061 connects us with areas of like-minded
13 families.

14 Thank you for your time and the work that
15 you're doing.

16 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

17 Our next -- thank you. Our next speaker is
18 Kellen Wilson.

19 MS. WILSON: Can you hear me?

20 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

21 MS. WILSON: Thank you so much.

22 My name is Kellen Wilson. I have two young
23 kids, and I live at the corner of 7th Street and
24 Glendale. This is very near the border of the proposed
25 Districts 1 and 2. I wanted to say that I do like the

1 fact that you keep the North Mountain preserve together
2 by keeping the Sunnyslope -- by keeping Sunnyslope in
3 District 2. And as a mother of two, I deeply care
4 about my children's education, and I hope that you
5 consider making the Washington School District as whole
6 as possible.

7 On the congressional maps, I am currently in
8 District 1, and as many have spoken to, I feel like
9 there are a lot of differences between where I live and
10 some of the more rural areas of the district very far
11 north. I recommend making a district that connects
12 Central and East Phoenix along with the mountain
13 preserves and then allows District 8 to become a more
14 rural district outside of the urban areas. I feel this
15 would satisfy both folks like myself that live in the
16 city as well as the folks that live in the northern
17 areas like Cave Creek and Fountain Hills.

18 Thank you for your time.

19 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

20 Our next speaker is Lawrence Warren.

21 Laurence, can you hear us?

22 MR. WARREN: Can you hear me?

23 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

24 MR. WARREN: Okay, great.

25 Good afternoon, Commissioners. My name is

1 Lawrence Warren. I live in Gilbert. I would first
2 like to say that Gilbert is a family-oriented city with
3 a small town feel, and it has a tight-knit group of
4 people who live and work together. As a whole we are a
5 community of similar interests. The proposed treatment
6 for Gilbert for a legislative district is to break it
7 into five separate pieces and attach those pieces to
8 other areas that do not have the same community of
9 interest. This goes against one of the core principles
10 of redistricting that says to have legislative
11 districts that form a community of interest. As it is
12 now, you are breaking up that community of interest,
13 and another one that it specifies, compactness. This
14 creates difficulties in creating balance with so many
15 different cities, school districts, other varieties of
16 interest, leaving voters to vote on issues for which
17 they have no knowledge, interest or understanding,
18 failing the input of putting issues to a vote.

19 One of the -- speaking about congressional
20 districts, one of five proposed pieces -- excuse me.
21 I'm going back. One of five proposed pieces of Gilbert
22 would extend across Chandler and Ahwatukee for a
23 distance of 30 miles. Another proposal is to take a
24 very small piece of Gilbert, attach it to a large piece
25 of Mesa. Our Heritage District is split off, attached

1 to another area that is largely foreign to the Heritage
2 District and Gilbert as a whole. These wholesale
3 changes to Gilbert do not agree with the Commission's
4 mandate of district shape, geological -- geographical
5 features and respect the communities of interest.
6 Gilbert is the only city that is being divided into
7 five pieces. This does not give Gilbert an even chance
8 at fair representation.

9 Regarding congressional districts, I also ask
10 to keep Gilbert in one county and not extend it into
11 Pinal County nor connect it to much rural areas. I
12 previously had lived in Apache County. I know -- I'm
13 quite familiar with that lifestyle. It is completely
14 different than Gilbert, so I ask that you keep us in
15 areas of similar --

16 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

17 The next speaker is Gina McCracken.

18 Gina, can you hear?

19 MS. MCCRACKEN: I already spoke.

20 MS. VAN HAREN: Oh, I'm sorry.

21 Our next speaker -- our next speaker is
22 Stephanie Holbrook.

23 Stephanie, can you hear us?

24 MS. HOLBROOK: Thank you for allowing me to
25 speak. I live at 19th Avenue and Beardsley in Peoria.

1 Can you hear me?

2 MS. VAN HAREN: I'm so sorry. Please proceed.

3 MS. HOLBROOK: Okay. I am referring to the
4 projected LD 28 map, and I would like to concur with
5 the lady from the Vistancia who was speaking. A large
6 part of the map does include urban areas that we have
7 similar shopping and that sort of thing, but the -- out
8 to the west, Wickenburg and all the way to the county
9 line, that's a rural area. We do not have the same
10 similar of interest.

11 There is a 30-point spread in the
12 competitiveness, which is -- does not comply with the
13 mandates, and we have a -- I feel like that there were
14 all these other areas they were trying to fit in and
15 they just shoved everything else into 28, because it's
16 a pretty large district with a very small part that is
17 urban and the rest is very rural.

18 So thank you for my consideration. I
19 appreciate it.

20 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

21 The next speaker is Chad Moreland.

22 Chad?

23 Oh, and before Chad speaks I just want to
24 remind everybody if we can't see you or if you're not
25 registered under the name that you chose then we're

1 going to the next person on the list. If we see that
2 somebody has logged in from the beginning of the list
3 then we'll go back and get that person, so even though
4 there is a list of names that may not necessarily be
5 the order because logistically we're just making sure
6 that we get everybody who is logged in under the name
7 we have and can unmute themselves.

8 So go ahead, Chad.

9 MR. MORELAND: Yes. My name is Chad Moreland.
10 I live in the proposed District 27, which is the
11 current Legislative District 22. And I am a tech
12 worker. I work remote from home. And there is a
13 proposed Taiwan Semiconductor that's looking at 10 to
14 15,000 people moving in in the next few years that will
15 be inside the Loop 303, west of the I-17. And I
16 propose that that previous part that was LD 22 in that
17 northern region should not be isolated with the remote
18 areas outside the Loop 303 for District 28, that it
19 should stay with the suburban area.

20 And I also dispute this idea of competitive
21 districts as it proves to divide communities instead
22 of, you know, unite them in like ideologies and
23 similarities. I believe that we should look at
24 dividing these groups into their like-minded
25 communities so they can get the representation that

1 they deserve and not have to constantly fight for it.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

4 Our next speaker is Dustin Rector.

5 Dustin, can you hear us?

6 MR. RECTOR: Yes. My name is Dustin Rector.

7 I'm with the White Mountain Apache tribe. Majority of

8 my family lives in Legislative District (audio

9 distortion) Arizona. On behalf of the 12,000 --

10 MS. VAN HAREN: Dustin, I hate to interrupt,

11 but you're -- Dustin?

12 MR. RECTOR: Is my audio okay?

13 MS. VAN HAREN: Okay. Now it's better. I'm

14 sorry. I paused your time. Please proceed. Yes, go

15 ahead.

16 MR. RECTOR: Okay. On behalf of the 12,000

17 members of the White Mountain tribe (audio distortion)

18 separate the community of interest tribal members

19 (audio distortion).

20 MS. VAN HAREN: Dustin, I apologize. Your

21 audio is going in and out. Dustin, why don't you log

22 out and log back in and we'll call you next. We can't

23 hear you.

24 MR. RECTOR: Gotcha. Thank you.

25 MS. VAN HAREN: Our next speaker is Steven

1 Steele.

2 Steven, can you hear us? Steven?

3 MR. STEELE: Okay. Now I'm online.

4 My name is Steven Steele. I am a resident of
5 Gilbert, Arizona. I am just going to strictly cut to
6 the chase today. I would highly urge the Commission to
7 look at CD 0071 when considering the congressional
8 districts. And most and more importantly, the draft
9 map for the legislative districts divides my community
10 into five different legislative districts. I would
11 really highly encourage you to take a look at LD 0064
12 as submitted by Aiden Young on November 22nd. This map
13 does a much better job of aligning Gilbert with its own
14 community and its interests and puts us into one
15 legislative district.

16 And, really, that's all I have to comment on
17 today, and thank you very much for your time and your
18 efforts to sort this all out for the next ten years.

19 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

20 Our next speaker is Scott Sawottke.

21 Scott, can you hear us?

22 MR. SAWOTTKE: Yes. Can you hear me?

23 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

24 MR. SAWOTTKE: Can you hear me? Okay. Thank
25 you.

1 Thank you for the time today. I appreciate
2 it. Thank you for your efforts. My concern is by the
3 number of noncompetitive districts that have been
4 formed. One of the big dangers I see in having
5 noncompetitive districts, whether they're all
6 Republican or all Democrat, is that many voters in
7 those districts will start to assume that their
8 district will vote a certain way, and they won't bother
9 to vote. While low turnout may not affect whether that
10 district goes Democrat or Republican in a national
11 race, low turnout could have a very negative effect on
12 down ballot races or referendums. Competitive
13 districts increase voter turnout as well as making more
14 voters pay attention to who is running for office and
15 what the different candidates' stances are on the
16 issues.

17 I would like to see the districts refigured to
18 where we have mostly competitive districts, not several
19 solid Democrat and several solid Republican districts
20 with only a few competitive districts. It's true that
21 the redistricting map may end up looking like a
22 complicated jigsaw puzzle, but the purpose of
23 redistricting is to encourage participation in our
24 democracy, and judging by the number of noncompetitive
25 districts that have been formed I think that is in

1 danger.

2 Thank you for your time.

3 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

4 It looks like Dustin has logged back in and is
5 unmuted.

6 Dustin, can you hear us now?

7 MR. RECTOR: Yes. How much time do I have?

8 MS. VAN HAREN: We'll start over your two
9 minutes because we didn't hear any of your audio, okay?
10 So go ahead and please proceed.

11 MR. RECTOR: Yes. So my name (audio
12 distortion) Rector. I'm a member of the White Mountain
13 Apache tribe. (Audio distortion). On behalf of the
14 (audio distortion).

15 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

16 Our next speaker is Suzanne Mead.

17 Suzanne, can you hear us?

18 Yes. Please proceed.

19 MS. MEAD: Good afternoon. I'm Suzanne from
20 Carefree. As reported recently in the Arizona
21 Republic, Chair Neuberg says the law has shown you can
22 decrease competitiveness and contiguousness for a good
23 reason. I suggest that the devil is in the definition
24 of good reason. The public deserves to know how the
25 Commission arrives at a decision that will affect

1 millions of voters in the next ten years. To date the
2 Chair has given her seal of approval to many districts
3 in the draft plans, saying that they satisfy all six
4 criteria when in fact on the surface they do not. It
5 would be helpful if the Chair would explain how
6 exceedingly large vote spreads, for instance, or
7 splitting some COIs and not others pass the
8 Constitutional test. It would also be useful to
9 understand why politically balanced districts that
10 would improve the tenor of political discourse in our
11 communities are not considered equally important as
12 communities of interest.

13 In a June presentation to the League of Women
14 Voters the Chair expressed a concern about partisanship
15 and tension in the country. She pledged to fight for
16 democratic principles and to completely consider all
17 six criteria. She also pledged to advance through
18 redistricting one person, one vote. Mapping 24 safe
19 districts defies these goals and leaves a million
20 Arizonans with little hope of having their votes count.
21 I urge the Chair and the Commission to assess all
22 criteria equally to ensure competitiveness in more
23 districts and to explain in depth why some criteria can
24 be compromised in favor of others.

25 In the past several months many Democrats and

1 Republicans have requested fairer districts. They
2 should not be ignored. The Commissioners pledged to
3 faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of
4 office. Sharing the decision-making process will go a
5 long way to assure the public that this Commission
6 intends to serve the best interests of a much broader
7 public.

8 Thank you, and good luck with your
9 deliberations.

10 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

11 Our next speaker is James Miller.

12 James, can you hear us? James, can you hear
13 us?

14 MR. MILLER: Are you asking for James Miller?

15 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. James, please proceed.

16 MR. MILLER: Thank you.

17 Yes. Hello. I'm James Miller. I live in
18 Peoria, Maricopa County. My testimony is not related
19 to specific districts, but rather the overall
20 redistricting process. In this hearing and past
21 hearings I've heard a repetitive theme begging for
22 competitiveness in the political subdivisions, to the
23 exclusion and importance of the other Constitutional
24 requirements for those subdivisions. It's important
25 for the districts to be structured so that if possible

1 they can be awarded by the voters to candidates who
2 (indiscernible) political party. However, "if
3 possible" is the key phrase here. Often, and perhaps
4 usually, districts that are set up with the other four
5 requirements cannot easily or reasonably be forced to
6 be competitive through the demographics of the area.
7 In order to force this competitiveness the other
8 equally important requirements must be sacrificed, and
9 the usual method of accomplishing this is the use of
10 the time-dishonored practice of gerrymandering.

11 Since the IRC was set up by the role of the
12 voters to expressly avoid gerrymandering, it seems
13 forcing competitiveness at the expense of the other
14 requirements is working against the will of the people
15 and also is likely an unconstitutional and unethical
16 end of the bargain. Please don't take this structured
17 and repeated song as the will of the people, because
18 this seems it most certainly is not.

19 Thank you for your work and for your attention
20 to our comments.

21 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

22 Our next speaker is John Boyer.

23 John, can you hear us?

24 MR. BOYER: Yes, I can. Thank you.

25 My name is John Boyer. I'm a 74-year resident

1 of Arizona. I've lived in Mesa for 41 years. I have
2 two main points that concern me after reviewing the
3 draft maps. I want to see districts that are
4 representative of Arizona's diverse population, and
5 importantly I want to see competitive districts in
6 Arizona. Competitive districts will encourage better
7 representation for represent -- excuse me, for the
8 residents of that district, and it avoids -- districts
9 that are heavily weighted to one party or the other
10 tends to leave those in the -- in the minority party,
11 they leave them out of the process. They really have
12 no choice when there is only one candidate running.

13 I would also like to minimize splitting
14 cities, particularly the city of Mesa. It's split into
15 five districts now. I think three would be better to
16 prevent diluting our voices, and I think Map LD 0061
17 shows that how this can be done well.

18 Thank you for your time, and I appreciate the
19 opportunity to testify.

20 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

21 The next speaker is Richard Young.

22 Richard, can you hear us?

23 MR. YOUNG: Yes, I can hear you. Can you hear
24 me?

25 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

1 MR. YOUNG: Okay. Thank you.

2 I'm rather late to this process. LD 12 in
3 Gilbert -- I've learned most of this from my
4 neighbors -- I agree with the other two gentlemen from
5 Gilbert in that it is a mistake to break up LD 12 into
6 five separate districts. It seems completely counter
7 to the direction that we need to be going with the
8 local community.

9 I was in the university in the '60s and '70s
10 and through that chaos, yet I've never seen this
11 country in more of a mess than it is right now. Many
12 of our institutions seem to be spiraling out of
13 control, and we need to protect our local communities.
14 LD 12 is a consistent community with shared values, and
15 it seems simply an act of destruction to break it into
16 five separate units. Please don't do that.

17 That's it. Thank you.

18 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

19 Our next speaker is Ryan Williams.

20 Ryan, can you hear us?

21 MR. WILLIAMS: I can. Can you hear me?

22 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

23 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. Thank you.

24 Good afternoon, members of the Commission,
25 your staff, pardon me, and my fellow participants. My

1 name is Ryan Williams. I was born and raised here in
2 the Valley and I currently live and practice law in
3 Midtown Phoenix. My comments this afternoon regard the
4 Central Phoenix proposed Congressional District -- I
5 believe it's Congressional District 3. The proposed
6 map divides communities with shared interests,
7 histories, and challenges, especially affordable
8 housing and transportation, so I respectfully ask that
9 this Commission consider adding the communities of
10 Alhambra, South Glendale, Encanto, and Midtown into a
11 Central Phoenix congressional district and take out the
12 community and city of Avondale from the proposed
13 district. These changes will create a congressional
14 district that meets all of the criteria and legal
15 requirements that this Commission must follow.

16 Thank you very much for the opportunity to
17 speak here this afternoon.

18 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

19 Our next speaker is Gary Spears.

20 Gary, can you hear us?

21 MR. SPEARS: Can you hear me?

22 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

23 MR. SPEARS: I can. Can you hear me?

24 Good afternoon, Commissioners. My name is --

25 MS. VAN HAREN: Go ahead.

1 MR. SPEARS: My name is Gary Spears, and I'm
2 the former chair of Legislative District 30 and have
3 lived in El Caro precinct for more than a decade and a
4 half now. First, let me thank you on behalf of Arizona
5 for the hard work you're doing on redistricting.

6 To the point, Legislative District 30 is
7 primarily west of I-17 and consists mostly of West
8 Phoenix and Glendale, but for some reason the smaller
9 sliver of area on the east side of I-17, including my
10 precinct, was included in LD 30, which makes absolutely
11 no sense. My precinct, El Caro, is on the east side of
12 I-17. We consider ourselves part of Central Phoenix.
13 We shop, eat, socialize, work, and play in Central
14 Phoenix, not in West Phoenix or Glendale. I-17 is a
15 physical, natural, tangible, and emotional barrier and
16 boundary that is the obvious delineation between East
17 and West Phoenix.

18 As chair of LD 30 I saw firsthand the
19 disparities and differences between the east and the
20 west sides of I-17. They have different concerns and
21 issues that should be able -- and should be able to
22 concentrate on fixing their unique circumstances, not
23 split along boundary lines. The previous Commission
24 did put us in Congressional District 9 as opposed to
25 the rest of LD 30, who was in other congressional

1 districts and should stay -- and we should stay in that
2 Phoenix congressional district, Central Phoenix
3 congressional district. The last draft maps I looked
4 at had us in LD 26 instead of LD 1, but they still --
5 but it's still primarily Glendale and still has that
6 same split on the wrong side of I-17.

7 In conclusion, please rectify this and include
8 us with our community, not lumped in with the
9 communities that we do not identify with nor have
10 common --

11 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

12 The next speaker is Jeff Montgomery.

13 Jeff, can you hear us?

14 MR. MONTGOMERY: I can. Can you hear me?

15 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

16 MR. MONTGOMERY: Thank you.

17 First of all, I want to thank you guys for
18 holding these and for listening to us. I know you guys
19 have quite -- quite the task ahead of you. I
20 have lived -- I was born and raised here in Arizona.
21 Lived in -- born in Phoenix, lived in Mesa basically my
22 entire life. I'm 41. I'm a precinct committeeman.
23 I'm just get -- starting to get involved in all of this
24 stuff and trying to wrap my head around this, and the
25 new proposals that I've seen in many ways do not make

1 sense. I've studied the Constitution. I want to urge
2 you guys to make sure you live by all six
3 Constitutional points. That is extremely important.
4 And I -- there is not a whole lot more that I can add
5 so far. I agree with several people that have said,
6 Scott, about competitiveness is important, but, also,
7 all six have to be weighed evenly. I completely agree
8 with Susan -- Suzanne Mead and James Miller, their
9 comments. But I know you guys have a lot to think
10 about so just -- you guys obviously are held
11 accountable to God and to the people of this country
12 so -- or this state, so just my prayers are with you
13 guys, so I know you guys have a lot to do so thank you.

14 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

15 The next speaker is Sandy Bahr.

16 Sandy, can you hear us?

17 MS. BAHR: I can. Can you hear me?

18 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

19 MS. BAHR: Thank you for the opportunity to
20 speak today. My name is Sandy Bahr, and I'm the
21 chapter director for Sierra Clubs Grand Canyon chapter.
22 I live in an area -- why am I getting feedback? I'm
23 sorry.

24 MS. VAN HAREN: Sandy, do you have another
25 audio device on?

1 MS. BAHR: No, I don't. I just have my -- I
2 just have my computer.

3 MS. VAN HAREN: Okay. It sounds like we fixed
4 it. Oh, wait. Let's mute.

5 MS. BAHR: Should I try speaking again?

6 (Audio distortion.)

7 MS. VAN HAREN: Okay. There we go.

8 Sandy, I'm sorry. I paused your time. Go
9 ahead and start again -- don't start again. Start from
10 where you were.

11 MS. BAHR: Okay. Let me see if I can find
12 that.

13 Yes. I live in Central Phoenix in the area
14 that is part of proposed Legislative District 1, and I
15 have -- Arizona has been my home for more than
16 30 years, for more than 20 years in Central Phoenix and
17 previously 13 years in Chandler.

18 Sierra Club supported the Independent
19 Redistricting Commission because we saw how the
20 legislature had gerrymandered districts, and we
21 expected that with each iteration of these districts
22 there would be more and more competitive districts and
23 more fair districts. That does not seem to be the case
24 with this current round.

25 And I also wanted to say we're concerned about

1 what looks like blatant gerrymandering around
2 Legislative District 17 and perhaps some others. This
3 district seems to be drawn specifically at the request
4 of the Republican Party. That's just wrong.

5 Also, we would like to see Latino
6 representation not diluted in the West Valley of
7 Maricopa County. We urge the Commission to take a
8 good, hard look at the maps and to come back with more
9 fair and competitive districts and to ensure that the
10 voices and votes of indigenous people and people of
11 color are not diluted in the process. Thank you.

12 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

13 And because we actually have a lot of people
14 who are not logged in we're going to just post the rest
15 of the list of all of the people who have registered so
16 if we get a chance at the end of this, at the end of
17 the first list, we'll move on to that list, and that's
18 the entire list of all of the people who registered.

19 Our next speaker right now is Donna Kruck.

20 Donna, we'll see if we can fix your audio
21 issues. Donna, I think you have to log out of one of
22 your devices.

23 MS. KRUCK: Hello. Can you hear me?

24 (Audio distortion.)

25 MS. VAN HAREN: Donna, your devices are -- one

1 of your devices need to be logged off. Otherwise,
2 we've got that echo.

3 MS. KRUCK: I'm sorry. I don't know what to
4 do.

5 MS. VAN HAREN: Okay. Donna, we'll have
6 you -- I would log out and log back in.

7 We're moving on to Priscilla Mckerracher.

8 Priscilla, can you hear us? Priscilla, we've
9 sent you the request to unmute.

10 I believe the next one will be Nora Walker.

11 Nora, can you hear us?

12 The next is Mary-Jeanne Fincher.

13 Mary, can you hear us, Mary-Jeanne? Okay.

14 MS. FINCHER: Hello?

15 MS. VAN HAREN: We can hear you. Please
16 proceed.

17 MS. FINCHER: Thank you. I'm sorry. Can you
18 hear me? I'm having trouble hearing you.

19 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. We can hear you.

20 MS. FINCHER: Okay. I'm so sorry.

21 Hello. My name is Mary-Jeanne Fincher. Thank
22 you for giving all of us a chance to be heard today.

23 I would like to comment on two Constitutional
24 criteria, communities of interest and competitiveness.
25 Much of the public input on communities of interest has

1 focused on personal activities such as dining,
2 shopping, socializing, but is this relevant to which
3 legislative or congressional district one lives in?
4 The Commission should instead consider communities of
5 interest that arise where residents are similarly
6 affected by issues that can and should be addressed at
7 the state and federal levels, like affordable and
8 accessible health care, public education funding,
9 current and future water needs, and adequate
10 infrastructure.

11 Regarding competitiveness, according to the
12 Commission's measures 24 to 30 legislative districts
13 are not competitive. That's 80 percent. It's been
14 suggested that one obstacle to having more competitive
15 districts is that once VRA districts are created there
16 aren't enough left-leaning voters remaining to increase
17 competition in other districts, but your own measures
18 show statewide the competitive vote spread is less than
19 one percent, so it seems there are plenty of
20 left-leaning voters to work with. And looking at the
21 eight districts where the vote spread exceeds 40
22 percent, only four of them are VRA districts, and of
23 those VRA districts three have a vote spread of more
24 than 50 percent, which seems excessive.

25 It cannot be assumed that increased

1 competitiveness will cause significant detriment to the
2 other Constitutional criteria. This needs to be tested
3 and demonstrated. I urge the Commission to actively
4 seek more competitiveness by asking your mapping
5 experts --

6 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

7 The next speaker is Nelson Morgan, followed by
8 Desiree Perez.

9 Nelson, can you hear us?

10 MR. MORGAN: Yes. Can you hear me?

11 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

12 MR. MORGAN: Okay. Chair Neuberg and the
13 other Commissioners, thank you for this forum. I'm
14 Nelson Morgan. I'm the former director of the
15 International Computer Sciences Institute. I'm now
16 retired and living in Phoenix.

17 The public is submitting mountains of
18 comments, both in meetings like this and in written
19 form. It's got to be daunting for you to make any
20 sense of so much testimony. Several volunteers and I
21 have been trying to make the data more accessible by
22 posting automatic speech recognition results online,
23 but there is still too much material for anyone to draw
24 clear conclusions without further analysis. Towards
25 this end we are tracking key opinions on a few of the

1 major issues and will be making summary statistics
2 available to you and the public hopefully before you
3 get too deeply into your decision period.

4 My colleagues and I certainly have our own
5 biases, like everyone else. To soften that effect we
6 are providing pointers to times in the video for each
7 opinion we are summarizing so that you and others can
8 also draw your own conclusions. I hope that you and
9 the public in general find this effort helpful.

10 Finally, I have a brief comment about the vote
11 share figures you are using. For example, a number
12 like 51.67 percent, the Democratic vote share in
13 Legislative Draft Map District 2, does not necessarily
14 indicate that much accuracy. Given the simplicity of
15 the model used to derive this number, a simple average
16 from nine hopefully relevant elections, it should be
17 viewed as around 52 percent or so with a smudge of
18 possible values around that number. In other words, a
19 value like 51.67 percent is an estimate that really
20 corresponds to a range of several percent around that
21 value.

22 Thank you for your efforts. You certainly
23 have taken on a massive responsibility.

24 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: I have a question before
25 you hang up, please.

1 MR. MORGAN: Sure.

2 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Are you still there?

3 MR. MORGAN: I am. Can you hear me?

4 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Yes.

5 MR. MORGAN: Okay.

6 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: You know what, I'm
7 trying to remember what my question was about. What
8 was your main point?

9 MR. MORGAN: The first main point was just we
10 are putting together some materials to help to
11 summarize some -- just a few of the issues.

12 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: That's exactly right.
13 How are you going to account for not knowing which
14 people were paid to give public testimony and which
15 people weren't? It's extremely apparent, and in fact
16 we exposed it live, not everybody who reads comments
17 know what they're talking about, so how do we know that
18 data is actually valid?

19 MR. MORGAN: Well, we can't cover all the
20 information. We're not doing investigative reporting.
21 But what we're doing is just providing you the
22 information and then with links back to who said it and
23 exactly when in the video so anybody can go and follow
24 that up.

25 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Okay.

1 MR. MORGAN: That's really all we can do in
2 limited time.

3 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Right, right. I guess
4 my point is for the public to be a little cautious in
5 interpreting that data because we're all aware that
6 it's not a representative sample. First of all, people
7 who are capable of coming out and speaking -- we're
8 equally as responsible for understanding those who
9 doesn't speak. And, also, we are aware of many efforts
10 to bus people in and people on all sides being coached
11 and trained, and so we need to be just judicious in
12 interpreting that, so thank you very much.

13 MR. MORGAN: Sure. I mean, I think part of
14 the idea is that there are typical comments that -- for
15 people to look at, which just helps to summarize it. I
16 mean, you can draw your own conclusions.

17 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you very much.

18 MS. VAN HAREN: The next speaker is Desiree
19 Perez.

20 Yes. Please proceed.

21 MS. PEREZ: Thank you.

22 My name is Desiree Perez. I am a resident of
23 Bellemont, Arizona. Not being paid to testify today.

24 I have concern around the proposed inclusion
25 of Bellemont in proposed District 7 because we're an

1 unincorporated township in Coconino County, and we
2 really do rely on the city of Flagstaff for our
3 services. Our public libraries are in the city of
4 Flagstaff. Our grocery stores are in the city of
5 Flagstaff. All of our access to schools is in the city
6 of Flagstaff. Children who live in Bellemont are part
7 of the Flagstaff Unified School District, and yet we
8 are being separated from the legislative district that
9 Flagstaff would be governed under. So my concern is
10 that state-level policies that will affect essentially
11 our city will -- we will not have a voice in those if
12 we're living in Bellemont in District 7.

13 We are even separated by the I-40 and the
14 Mogollon Rim from most of what is drawn into the
15 proposed District 7, so not only are we separating
16 school districts; we're separating people from public
17 services like libraries, but we are also separated by
18 geographical landmarks and other kind of geographical
19 regions from what is the rest of proposed District 7.

20 I know that competitiveness has been mentioned
21 before. I do think that there are a lot of more
22 conservative-leaning folks here in Bellemont, and it
23 looks like, you know, Bellemont might be cut out
24 because of the political leanings of some folks in
25 Bellemont, but I think it would be more competitive if

1 we were included in District 6. And I want to really
2 urge folks on the committee to consider Bellemont's
3 close ties to Flagstaff and how we may be affected if
4 we are in a completely separate --

5 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

6 The next speaker is Paul Brierley.

7 Paul, can you hear us?

8 MR. BRIERLEY: I can. Thank you.

9 MS. VAN HAREN: Please proceed.

10 MR. BRIERLEY: Okay. Thank you, Chairwoman
11 Neuberg and Commissioners. I appreciate all your hard
12 work. I've actually testified at all three Commissions
13 so I have some appreciation of the potential challenges
14 you face.

15 I live in Yuma County, and I represent -- I'm
16 representing Yuma County Farm Bureau with these
17 comments, although I'm not paid to do that. I was
18 unable to be in Yuma County's hearings so I hope it's
19 okay that I can speak to that today.

20 Yuma County was really happy with the existing
21 split that we had because it gave us a significant
22 voice in two legislative districts, one Republican and
23 one Democrat, and two congressional districts, one
24 Republican and one Democrat. Something similar would
25 be our first choice. However, the proposed maps has

1 split the county in a way that puts all the population
2 in the southern district and really none of the
3 population in the northern district, so the southern
4 district being with Tucson, it looks like we would have
5 no voice in either district.

6 And even more important than that, it splits
7 our two main communities of interest that are the
8 economic drivers for Yuma County, which is agriculture
9 and military. For agriculture, it's, again, basically
10 split. When you look at irrigation districts or
11 acreage, irrigation districts are run by boards of
12 community members. Those have been split into two
13 separate districts, so their voice would be nullified.
14 And the military where we have two big installations,
15 the Yuma Proving Grounds and the Marine Corps Air
16 Station, Yuma are also split into two separate
17 districts. So the proposed maps split our population
18 to have no voice and split our two main economic
19 communities of interest to also have no voice, so our
20 second choice from our existing would be to unify all
21 of Yuma County in one legislative district and one
22 congressional district so we keep those communities of
23 interest together and hopefully at least have some
24 voice.

25 Thank you for taking my comments.

1 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

2 Our next speaker is Antonio Silva.

3 Antonio, can you hear us?

4 MR. SILVA: Hi. Yes, I can hear you. Can you
5 hear me?

6 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

7 MR. SILVA: Okay. Well, thank you for taking
8 the time to listen to all of our -- our opinions and
9 what it is that we feel like is best for our
10 communities. I'm sure this is a big task for you all.

11 So I'm going to be referring to LD 0061 in
12 comparison to all the other maps that I have seen. So
13 currently I live in LD 12. Been in Gilbert my -- you
14 know, my entire life, fifth generation family. Been
15 here since Arizona was a territory with France. So
16 we've been here for a while, and I feel like a lot of
17 these things, these changes that are slowly happening,
18 are kind of tearing our family apart.

19 And LD 0061, I feel like it best represents
20 what it is that we have in common in regards to Gilbert
21 and the different populations, but I would also like to
22 add the inclusion of Queen Creek. The current approved
23 map for LD -- for the legislative districts tears
24 Gilbert apart into five different districts, which I
25 feel like is absolutely unnecessary, and it separates

1 us from those who have the same religious and family
2 beliefs. It separates a lot of church boundaries and
3 schools, and I really am asking you to please consider
4 LD 0061 for the East Valley and with the inclusion in
5 District 14, Queen Creek as well.

6 Thank you very much.

7 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

8 Our next speaker is Roy Morales.

9 Roy, can you hear us?

10 MR. MORALES: Yes. Can you hear me?

11 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

12 MR. MORALES: Thank you very much for your
13 time today. My name is Roy, and I live in Gilbert.

14 I have several -- a lot of things to go over
15 here. Per the proposed Legislative District Map
16 Version 10, Gilbert has been divided into five parts
17 that covers LD 9, 10, 12, 13, and 14. That would mean
18 that the cities of Chandler, Mesa, and Phoenix will
19 have dominance over Gilbert. Therefore, Gilbert will
20 be split and orphaned. It -- it will fracture my town
21 of Gilbert and would not give us population equality,
22 community of interest, and does not respect our town
23 boundaries. It's a unique town in itself with its own
24 culture and interests, just like Chandler, and right
25 now it does not make any sense to change the existing

1 LD Map 17 and LD Map 12 as we have it right now. It's
2 just -- what isn't broken should not be fixed. You
3 know what I mean?

4 So, but with regards to Mesa, it is the third
5 largest city by population. Therefore, it should be
6 split up into three different legislative districts.
7 LD 9 and 10 proposed should not extend further than
8 past Baseline Road. That encroaches into Chandler and
9 Gilbert. And LD 9 should start at east of the 101
10 up -- and to the east of Val Vista, and 10 should start
11 at Val Vista and go on as far as Meridian Road to the
12 east. The north and south corridor of Mesa between
13 Power Road and Meridian, south of Baseline and north of
14 Germann should be its own separate LD district. Mesa
15 and Tempe do not share common interests.

16 And in regards to Congressional District 5,
17 let's keep Mesa, Gilbert, and Chandler under one roof.
18 It's important that we have a representative to
19 represent those three cities, as well as our retirement
20 cities of Leisure World and Sun Lakes. And, again,
21 keep Tempe out of the Scottsdale and Mesa area. They
22 share nothing in common.

23 Thank you so much.

24 MS. VAN HAREN: The next speaker is Doris
25 Hinton.

1 Doris, can you hear us?

2 MS. HINTON: I can. Can you hear me?

3 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

4 MS. HINTON: My name is Doris Hinton, and I am
5 a PC that lives over in Surprise. I have previously
6 testified publicly about my proposed CD 9, but today
7 I'm speaking on behalf of my son and daughter-in-law
8 about the proposed CD 1 District. They are both 20
9 something, and they have lived for the last four years
10 in Cave Creek. They used to commute into Phoenix and
11 Mesa before COVID hit, and they no longer do. They
12 work remotely, and they don't see that changing at any
13 time in the near future. So for them going into town
14 is essentially going to Desert Ridge. That's where
15 they shop. They go to restaurants there. They rarely
16 go anywhere below the 101. They enjoy being away from
17 the city, as a lot of people do that live up in that
18 area. They love the wide open spaces nearby for hiking
19 and ATVing. They enjoy the western flair and the
20 cowboy feel up in that area.

21 So for CD1 to have this finger that dips all
22 the way down into Scottsdale and Phoenix and hits the
23 I-10 is somewhat of a disconnect for them. For those
24 residents, they have little in common with people that
25 live in the dense city, that have apartments that they

1 dwell in and multifamily units. So it would seem like
2 it would make more sense for the boundary line for CD 1
3 to go to the 101 and not much further than that.

4 And that's all I have to say. Thank you.

5 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

6 The next speaker is Judith Simmons.

7 Judith, can you hear us? Oh, maybe Judith
8 Simmons. There we go.

9 MS. SIMONS: Are you hearing me?

10 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

11 MS. SIMONS: Okay. My name is Judith Simmons.
12 I've lived in Chandler for over 25 years. I testified
13 last evening, but since then I've been looking over the
14 draft maps again.

15 My comments today refer to Map LD 0061. I
16 support this map as it does a very good job of meeting
17 all the Constitutional requirements for redistricting
18 per Prop 106. It puts a roughly equal population size
19 in each East Valley district. The districts are
20 compact and contiguous. It uses reasonable
21 geographical borders, including tribal boundaries.
22 This matter is for preserving communities of interest.
23 For instance, it keeps the Latino communities of
24 interest in LDs 9 and 13 together. That eastern
25 panhandle as a new LD 12 severely interrupts and would

1 dilute their ability to be well-represented for dealing
2 with shared needs and problems. It moves the
3 retirement community of Sun Lakes into LD 12, along
4 with Ahwatukee, which has a large retiree community,
5 and Friendship Village in South Tempe. That would also
6 enhance the competitiveness of LDs 12 and 13 without
7 infringing any of the other considerations for fair
8 redistricting. It keeps cities more intact rather than
9 splitting them among several districts. This is really
10 important for constituents to be able not only to elect
11 but also to hold accountable their legislators.

12 City issues, businesses, and schools are the
13 communities of interest that I'm most concerned about,
14 so having one set of legislators to interact with
15 matters to me. I often encourage others to be involved
16 as well, and navigating the system shouldn't have to be
17 more complicated over multiple districts.

18 I encourage you to adopt Map LD 0061, and I
19 thank you again for your time and effort.

20 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

21 And it looks like, Donna Kruck, we have you
22 back. Can you hear us?

23 MS. KRUCK: I can. Can you hear me?

24 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

25 MS. KRUCK: Great. Thank you.

1 Thanks for this opportunity to speak. My name
2 is Donna Kruck. I go by Amina and have lived in
3 Arizona since 1977 and in Tempe since 1980. I'm
4 retired and proud of our state for having an
5 Independent Redistricting Commission to assure that our
6 voting districts are fair, equitable, and competitive
7 as proscribed by Prop 106. I appreciate the very
8 difficult tasks of the Commission, and you've done a
9 good job equalizing populations in the proposed
10 districts.

11 However, I do have several comments about the
12 current accepted draft maps. I'm concerned that this
13 map doesn't truly represent the intent of the federal
14 voting act to protect and enhance the voting rights of
15 people of color in our state, especially Latino and
16 Native Americans. I would recommend that proposed
17 LD 0061 and CD 0073 maps that better address my
18 concerns expressed here be considered. The current
19 voting district maps could better, more accurately
20 reflect the demographic and political party preference
21 changes that have occurred in Arizona since the last
22 ten years. The voter registration currently reflects
23 that one-third of the state's voters registered are
24 Independents, so the redistricting maps need to have
25 one-third of the districts more competitive than the

1 current draft maps. The maps could better represent
2 the more equal division of Republicans versus
3 Democrat-leaning districts to be more reflective of the
4 2020 voting registers.

5 Also, I think the current map splits up the
6 East Valley, as others have mentioned, cities in
7 Maricopa County, to too many different legislative
8 districts. I live in Tempe. Five districts is
9 ridiculous for Tempe. It makes more sense to keep the
10 city communities together as much as possible, again
11 like suggested in the LD 0061.

12 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

13 Our next speaker is Priscilla Mckerracher.
14 I'm sorry if I messed that up.

15 Priscilla, can you hear us?

16 MS. MCKERRACHER: Yes. Can you hear me now?

17 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes, we can. Thank you.

18 Please proceed.

19 MS. MCKERRACHER: Thank you so much as I
20 struggled to get unmuted.

21 Yes, I am Priscilla Mckerracher, a resident of
22 Village of Oak Creek, unincorporated section of Yavapai
23 County, with a Sedona mailing address. My input is a
24 request to keep the greater Sedona area in one unique
25 legislative district regardless of location in Yavapai

1 or Coconino County. The Village of Oak Creek lies on
2 the border to Coconino and Yavapai counties. However,
3 the character, challenges, and needs of the VOC align
4 very closely with incorporated Sedona. The entire 179
5 corridor from I-17 to Sedona central represents a
6 shared community of interest. Many of the pressures on
7 Sedona are also extending into Cottonwood and Camp
8 Verde as part of the Verde Valley with shared access to
9 housing, medical, and transportation key interests. A
10 legislative district that ends at the natural boundary
11 of the Mingus Mountains, separate from more rural
12 western Arizona and Prescott area further south, would
13 align with the mapping criteria of geography.

14 And so, lastly, I also implore the Commission
15 to ensure that as many as possible of the final
16 congressional districts are indeed as competitive as
17 possible, allowing for more shared interests to be
18 represented at the federal level.

19 Thank you so much for your time.

20 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

21 And our next speaker is Brandy Reese.

22 Brandy, can you hear us?

23 MS. REESE: I can hear you. Can you hear me?

24 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

25 MS. REESE: Excellent.

1 My name is Brandy Reese, and I'm here this
2 afternoon because I live in Gilbert, and I'm deeply
3 concerned about the proposed splitting of Gilbert into
4 five districts, as we've heard several people say
5 before me. I would like to echo their sentiments that
6 Gilbert be split into not more than two districts. I
7 therefore don't want LD 13 to include the district of
8 Gilbert on its east side. We've talked about this.
9 Please change the boundary to follow the city of
10 Chandler boundaries that the current LD 17 and LD 12
11 use. If you could, divide up that panhandle and please
12 reunite the north of Chandler with the lower part of
13 Chandler.

14 I was present last night and spoke in favor of
15 the LDF 034 map that had been submitted, and someone
16 testified after me that drew my attention to the
17 submitted map LD 0061, which we've heard a little bit
18 about today. In review of that, I would point out that
19 the boundaries for LD 13 on the LDF 034 and the
20 LDF 0061 maps are the same, and they solve the issue of
21 competitiveness for the East Valley while keeping
22 communities of interest together, so they kind of
23 balance those Constitutional requirements.

24 Finally, on a little bit different note, I've
25 just learned of the connection of Commissioner Mehle

1 and the proposed LD 17 and believe that that district
2 specifically deserves closer inspection for
3 competitiveness given the obvious concerns that an
4 interest in party -- pardon me -- an interested
5 partisan player has brought to that proposed district.

6 So there is my comments, and I appreciate the
7 time. Thank you.

8 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

9 The next speaker is Sarah Fanning and Alex
10 Forbes.

11 Sarah, can you hear us?

12 MS. FORBES: Yes. Can you hear me?

13 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

14 MS. FORBES: Okay. Good afternoon, Madam
15 Chair and Commissioners. My name is Sarah Fanning, and
16 I've been a Chandler resident since 2005. I also plan
17 to speak on submitted Map LD 0061.

18 To paraphrase my state senator, please don't
19 Gilbert my Chandler. The new consolidated Gilbert map
20 is decidedly more red than the current very competitive
21 LD 17. There is a reason one party is so excited by LD
22 13 as is. Map LD 0061 keeps more of Chandler and
23 Gilbert intact. It keeps the largely Latino precincts
24 together and doesn't divide downtown Chandler from
25 South Chandler. It also eliminates the dreaded

1 panhandle. I am not asking that you make LD 13 blue,
2 just that you keep what is now LD 17 as competitive as
3 it currently is. That's what democracy is all about.
4 The more competitive the districts are the more likely
5 our legislators will be out in the field speaking with
6 voters and legislating on our concerns, solving our
7 problems.

8 I thank you for your volunteer efforts and for
9 your consideration.

10 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

11 Our next speaker is Alex Forbes.

12 Alex, can you hear us?

13 MR. FORBES: My name is Alex Forbes, and I was
14 born and raised in the Valley. I am here to voice my
15 concern over the proposed legislative and congressional
16 maps. We the people have a right to hold our elected
17 officials accountable. This applies to both parties.
18 The proposed maps attempt to centralize and solidify
19 power with a single party despite rapidly changing
20 demographics in the state. Representation in our state
21 will be diluted if these maps are adopted, and we will
22 take yet another step away from the representative
23 democracy our country is founded on. Voters voted for
24 an independent commission because we do not want a
25 single party controlling the legislative direction in

1 our state in perpetuity or without consequence.

2 That was going to be the end of my testimony,
3 but I have to comment on the Chair's comment regarding
4 folks being paid or bused in. Is that really a
5 determination that you're considering in making
6 yourselves? That -- that really kind of breathes a lot
7 of skepticism in how you are interpreting our comments
8 today. Thank you.

9 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

10 The next speaker is Gregory Rucker.

11 Gregory, can you hear me? Gregory, we see
12 you're unmuted. Okay. It looks like we lost Gregory.

13 And let me just see who the next speaker --
14 Marisela Mares.

15 Marisela, can you hear us?

16 MS. MARES: Hello?

17 MS. VAN HAREN: Marisela, we can hear you.

18 MS. MARES: Okay. Hi. My name is Marisela.
19 I have lived in Arizona my whole life, and most of my
20 time as a young adult has been spent in Tempe, living
21 there, working as a food service worker at ASU and as a
22 student at ASU.

23 While I understand the difficult job of the
24 Commission to balance so many factors, I have a few
25 suggestions based on my area. I live close to Tempe

1 Town Lake, but under the current state legislative
2 proposals I would be in District 1, which is based more
3 around Central Phoenix. I think it would make more
4 sense for my area to be connected with the rest of
5 Tempe.

6 On the congressional maps I think it would
7 make more sense to connect with South Scottsdale's
8 central business district with us in my area, so
9 becoming part of District 4. I just feel that South
10 Scottsdale and Tempe share a lot in common and we would
11 benefit from being together. Thank you.

12 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

13 Our next speaker, we're going to go to Gregory
14 Rucker again.

15 Gregory, can you hear us? Gregory, can you
16 accept the request? There we go. We still can't hear
17 you. Okay, Gregory, if you want to log out and log
18 back in.

19 Okay. It looks like actually there were about
20 ten people -- I'm trying to pull the list right now --
21 who registered to speak after the cutoff time, so I'm
22 going to name the next four names. We'll try to put
23 them in the chat box that we have. I have an Alison
24 Porter, a Leslie Daniel, an Eric Morgan, and a Mary
25 Guadio, so we'll start with Alison Porter and send her

1 a request to unmute.

2 Alison, can you hear us?

3 MS. PORTER: Can you hear me?

4 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

5 MS. PORTER: Okay. Thank you, and to the
6 Chair and the Commission members, thank you for your
7 very painstaking work. I have tried to mess with the
8 mapping software, and it is really difficult.

9 But all of the people in Arizona in 2000 who
10 voted -- who moved the citizen initiative forward to
11 have this Commission, you know, it was done because we
12 do really want to competitive districts, and I've heard
13 that most people are in favor of them. I agree with
14 all of those reasons. I don't need to -- I don't think
15 that I need to repeat them, but it is -- it is a far
16 more effective way to represent everyone in the
17 community.

18 I've lived in the East Valley for about
19 60 years, and in that time it has become more diverse,
20 and we need elected officials that represent that
21 diversity, and so we need competitive districts. I
22 know some young men who are very conversant on the
23 mapping software, and I know that map, I think it's LD
24 0061, they listened to a couple of weeks of comments
25 after the final draft map came out and took into

1 consideration comments that many people brought in -- I
2 mean that made at your hearings, and I think that they
3 showed that a lot of comments can be taken into
4 consideration and that in the East Valley there can be
5 more competitive districts, districts that represent
6 communities of interest, keep our cities and our school
7 districts together.

8 So, again, I want to thank you for your work,
9 and thank you for listening to those of us that want to
10 share our thoughts with you, and I sure hope that
11 you -- some people who are not very clear in sharing
12 their thoughts, that doesn't necessarily mean that
13 they've been paid or coerced to be here. I think a lot
14 of people are concerned. This is very difficult stuff,
15 as you well know, and so thank you again.

16 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

17 Our next speaker is Elizabeth Bernstein.

18 Elizabeth, can you hear us?

19 MS. BERNSTEIN: Yes, I can. Can you hear me?

20 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

21 MS. BERNSTEIN: Thank you.

22 Hi. I'm Elizabeth Bernstein. I've been a
23 resident of Cochise County for over 30 years. I've
24 raised my family here, taught in the public schools and
25 Cochise College, and most recently served on a

1 commission which advised our county Board of
2 Supervisors as they considered redrawing the
3 supervisorial district lines.

4 I want today to address the proposed CD 6.
5 Since the redistricting ten years ago, we have been in
6 Congressional District 2, a compact district which
7 joins Cochise County with parts of Tucson, with which
8 we share many interests. We go there to shop and for
9 medical care. Our TV stations are from there. Pima
10 and Cochise counties also have in common that each
11 contains a major military installation, Davis-Monthan
12 Air Force Base and Fort Huachuca, both of which are in
13 our current congressional district. The proposed CD 6
14 separates us in Cochise County from much of Pima
15 County, including Davis-Monthan and other parts of
16 Tucson. Our district would instead extend into areas
17 with which we have far less in common, namely Graham
18 and Greenlee counties, and in particular Casa Grande in
19 Pinal County. It's apparent from the map itself that
20 bringing Casa Grande into this district requires a
21 long, narrow extension. By reaching it so far it not
22 only fails to connect us in Cochise County with our
23 communities of interest which are closer by, but it
24 also fails the criterion of compactness, and it
25 unnecessarily crosses -- crosses instead of following

1 multiple city and county boundaries.

2 In each of these respects the proposed
3 District 6 lines fall short of accommodating the
4 Constitutionally required goals to the extent
5 practicable. I urge the Commission to consider a
6 congressional district which combines Cochise County
7 with more of Pima instead of Graham, Greenlee, and
8 Pinal counties, and thank you for your time and your
9 very hard work.

10 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

11 Our next speaker will be Eric Morgan, followed
12 by Mary Guadio, followed by Michael Martinez.

13 MR. MORGAN: Hi. My name is Eric Morgan.
14 Thank you for getting me in today.

15 I'm an engineering manager at Intel
16 Corporation, but I live in Arrowhead Ranch near North
17 Glendale, near the 101 and 67th Avenue. In my 11 years
18 of commuting two hours a day between Glendale and
19 Chandler, I spent a lot of time in many communities
20 along the way, and I've had an opportunity to see how
21 each community develops its own flavor, and it's this
22 flavor that attracts people to choose one community to
23 live in over another, and it shapes what kind of
24 representation that we want and need.

25 Competitive districts require that this

1 Commission use arbitrary political factors to override
2 the natural boundaries and the natural tendencies that
3 people have to -- that people have to congregate within
4 their communities that reflect who they are and live
5 near people with whom they share interest. This
6 overrides results in -- this override results in
7 representatives that can't afford to fight for the
8 interests of the minorities for fear of losing
9 elections. This changes communities over time. So
10 50/50 districts create this kind of boring,
11 homogenizing effect that destroys those very flavors
12 that make our communities different and make them
13 great. They pit most people -- the most number of
14 people against each other within the districts and
15 further erodes the communities. They're not fair, and
16 they're not good for the community or the people, which
17 is why competitiveness is a subordinate to all factors
18 in the law.

19 I live in the new CD 8 and District 27. It's
20 clear that the lines were drawn to promote
21 competitiveness over communities of interest, and this
22 can be corrected by moving CD 8 boundaries west into
23 the south to encompass the similar communities of
24 Surprise, Litchfield, and Sun Cities, keeping the West
25 Valley whole. District 27 should be shifted to the

1 west for the same reasons, separating it from the I-17
2 corridor, which corresponds to changes -- and also
3 making the corresponding changes that will require the
4 districts to maintain their equal population.

5 So I hope you'll consider these factors,
6 refine these maps, prevent the destroying of our
7 communities with unfair artificial competitiveness, and
8 I thank you very much for your sacrifices in
9 undertaking this very important job.

10 MS. VAN HAREN: Next speaker is Mary Guadio.

11 Mary, can you hear us? Mary, can you hear us?
12 Mary, we can't hear you so I don't know if you want to
13 log out and log back in.

14 And then I believe -- okay, our next speaker
15 after Mary is Michael Martinez.

16 Michael, we sent you a request to unmute.
17 There we go.

18 MR. MARTINEZ: Are you ready for me? This is
19 Michael Martinez.

20 MS. VAN HAREN: Please proceed.

21 MR. MARTINEZ: Hi. My name is Michael, and I
22 live in Encanto in Central Phoenix. I have spent most
23 of my time in Arizona working in restaurants across
24 Central and Downtown Phoenix.

25 I want to speak about my current proposed

1 State District 1. It extends into parts of Tempe.
2 However, I feel District 1 would be better suited
3 extending into parts of downtown, which has a vibrant
4 and up-and-coming neighborhood and has a lot in common
5 with District 1. I also believe it should be a
6 congressional district that encompasses Central and
7 East Phoenix and runs up the 17 instead of connecting
8 us to places like Cave Creek. We are much more
9 connected to areas like the North Mountain Preserve.

10 Thank you for your time and adding me to the
11 queue.

12 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

13 And I'm going to try Mary Guadio one more
14 time, and if not we'll come back. And then our next
15 speaker is Salil.

16 MR. DESHPANDE: Yes. Can you hear me?

17 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

18 That was Salil. Hang on just a second. I
19 think he was muted.

20 MR. DESHPANDE: Hello?

21 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed. We can
22 hear you.

23 MR. DESHPANDE: Good afternoon. My name is
24 Salil Deshpande. I live in Pima County. I apologize
25 that I will not be able to attend the in-person meeting

1 in Tucson tomorrow, but I wanted to testify before the
2 end of the public comment period.

3 I'm originally from Texas, but I've made
4 Tucson my home in recent years. My son was born at
5 Banner University Medical Center, and my wife works at
6 the University of Arizona, and she grew up in the
7 Catalina Foothills. As someone originally from Texas,
8 I feel fortunate to now live in a state that has an
9 Independent Redistricting Commission. I have seen
10 firsthand the impact of partisan gerrymandering in my
11 own state of Texas, and I would hate to see the
12 negativity and toxicity of Texas politics come to
13 Arizona.

14 On that note I would urge the Commission to
15 reconsider the legislative draft map with respect to
16 Southern Arizona. The legislative draft map as it
17 stands originated from a partisan source with the
18 intent to gerrymander the Tucson area. Particularly,
19 LD 17 in the current draft map does not create a fair
20 and competitive district, nor is this district
21 geographically compact and contiguous. One end of the
22 district is separated from the other end by the
23 Catalina mountains.

24 I would ask that the Commission take another
25 look at LD Test Map Version 9.0, which creates a more

1 competitive District 17 that is more geographically
2 compact and contiguous and includes nearby parts of
3 Tucson like the Casas Adobes region. As a resident of
4 midtown Tucson, this impacts me because the relative
5 distribution of my district is skewed by the weird
6 shape of LD 17 to the north. The draft legislative map
7 splits us between multiple districts, diluting our
8 voting power and influence in the legislature. I want
9 fair districts for the entire region so we all benefit.

10 Thank you for your time today.

11 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

12 I think we'll try again for Mary Guadio.

13 Mary, can you hear us?

14 MS. GUADIO: Can you hear me?

15 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

16 MS. GUADIO: Thank you so much.

17 Thank you for allowing me to speak. My name
18 is Mary Guadio. I'm a Phoenix native who grew up in
19 the West Phoenix area of 27th Avenue and Roosevelt. I
20 currently am a resident of Paradise Valley. I grew up
21 in a largely Latino community, and as such I understand
22 the unique concerns of that community, so I am going to
23 ask that you consider the latest iteration of CD --
24 Congressional District 0073, the proposed map by the
25 Arizona Latino Coalition for Fair Redistricting.

1 I am a mentor with New Pathways for Youth as
2 well, and it's an organization that supports Phoenix's
3 most at risk youth, and it's predominantly Latino
4 youth. They have unique concerns regarding affordable
5 housing, transportation, education, and health equity.
6 And I believe, Arizona, you know, Maricopa County
7 especially has a very large Latino population, and they
8 deserve to have proper representation, and the latest
9 iteration proposed by the Arizona Latino Coalition is I
10 think the fairest and gives the most, you know,
11 representation for our Latino community. It is -- you
12 know, they just have unique concerns, and they -- I
13 would ask that you really consider, you know, having a
14 congressional district that really focuses on the needs
15 of the Latino community -- or community.

16 Thank you for your time. I appreciate all
17 that you do.

18 MS. VAN HAREN: And we don't have any other
19 speakers who are logged in. And just a reminder at the
20 end so I can clarify, we went through -- I pulled up a
21 report again and was able to -- anybody who registered
22 after our typical cutoff was able to speak, so I
23 believe we heard from every person who wanted to speak
24 today.

25 And with that I'll send it back over to you,

1 Commissioner Lerner.

2 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Sorry. I have to
3 unmute.

4 I want to say thank you to everybody. We had
5 a great turnout, and we appreciate the fact that people
6 spoke and took the time to be with us. We are
7 certainly listening to all of your comments. We have
8 our last meeting tomorrow in Tucson and in Maryvale at
9 10:00 a.m., so we hope to see those of you who are
10 interested attending those meetings. We will begin the
11 final map deliberations on Monday, October 6th.

12 And, again, I want to thank the public for
13 their involvement and their interest in the process,
14 and also for the fact that people have been -- for the
15 comments that you have made in terms of polite and
16 trying to be balanced in terms of your comments, so we
17 appreciate that.

18 And with that we are adjourned, and I thank my
19 fellow Commissioners as well, so thank you all.

20 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Thank you, Lori.

22 (The Virtual Town Hall concluded at 1:40 p.m.)

23 This transcript represents an unofficial
24 record. Please consult the accompanying video for the
25 official record of IRC proceedings.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the proceedings had upon the foregoing meeting are contained in the shorthand record made by me thereof, and that the foregoing 79 pages constitute a full, true, and correct transcript of said shorthand record, all done to the best of my skill and ability.

DATED at Phoenix, Arizona, this 16th day of December, 2021.

Deborah L Wilks

Deborah L. Wilks, RPR
Certified Court Reporter
Certificate No. 50849

* * *

I CERTIFY that Miller Certified Reporting, LLC, has complied with the requirements set forth in ACJA 7-201 and 7-206.

Dated at Litchfield Park, Arizona, this 16th day of December 2021.

MCR

Miller Certified Reporting, LLC
Arizona RRF No. R1058